

**Frederick County Roads Board
Minutes of Monday, March 5, 2012**

Present:

Roads Board Members

Barbara Windsor, Chairperson
Leroy Hansberger, Vice Chairperson
Paul Fitzgerald, AIP
Steve Haller
Peter Pearre, AIA

Staff Members

Commissioner Kirby Delauter, BoCC Liaison
Robert Shen, P.E.
William Routzahn
Dave Olney
Linda Lee Smith

I. Call To Order:

- A. The Frederick County Roads Board met on Monday, March 5, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. for their quarterly public meeting. The meeting was held in the Commissioner's Hearing Room, Third Floor, of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Barbara Windsor.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Introduction of Roads Board Members and Staff lead by Commissioner Delauter

II. Public Comments: Full discussion can be viewed at <http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/media/>

- A. Ms. Windsor asked for public comments. She asked that anyone wanting to speak regarding Tower Road to please wait until that item is discussed under new business
 1. Paul Allen, 12626 Shoemaker Road
 - People complain about pot holes. We have speeds bumps and you keep filling them in.
 - Leave the road alone.
 - The Taneytown Rod and Gun Club needed a special exception to have ranges. No organized shoots are allowed. Road is not adequate for traffic.
 - Not a major problem on Shoemaker. Money is scarce... post a sign, "Possible Pot Holes."

III. Old Business:

- A. Approval of minutes of December 5, 2011.
 1. Upon a motion by Mr. Hansberger the minutes were approved as presented.

IV. New Business:**A. Tower Road Improvements:**

Mr. Haller stated that he asked that this agenda item to be added and Mr. Jeff Slusher will be representing the residents.

1. Jeff Slusher, 12941 Tower Road, Thurmont, MD
 - He was asked to speak on behalf of the majority of the residents to have the unimproved section road tarred and chipped, nothing else.
 - Road does not need to be removed from the Rural Roads program to remain on the list. A simple majority vote of the dirt section is needed.
 - Two petitions have been collected, less than half responded.
 - Possible solutions... allow only the residents that live on the dirt portion to vote, amend the threshold, allow Rural Roads to be stabilized without removal from the program.
 - Presented PowerPoint presentation of his daughter's accident mid August, 2009 with photos (see attachment).
 - Road is unsafe much of the year; e.g. slippery mud, potholes, and washed out ditches.
 - Desires of the residents that live on the road should be considered and acted on.

2. Dennis Britton, 12906 Tower Road, Thurmont, MD
 - Reported accidents recently. (See photos attached.)
 - Stuck in house for 24 hours by road damage. His driveway is paved the dirt road is the problem.
 - One way road conditions.
 - Snow plow only goes one way. Cars travel two ways.
3. Phil Olsen, 13033 Tower Road, Thurmont, MD
 - Resident since 2000, middle of dirt section.
 - Washing out since trees were cleared on the Britton property.
 - Paving may require more clearing of trees.
 - Traffic will go faster with more noise.
 - Traffic volume will be increased.
 - More land will be built on.
 - Increase assessment.
4. Bertram Edmonston, 3rd, 13410 Tower Road, Thurmont, MD
 - Two families live on his property – 3 generations.
 - Direct affect on vehicles, e.g. brakes.
 - Ditches are a very real danger.
 - Excessive speeds, e.g. 50 mph.
 - Dust
 - Not safe for walking.
5. Maxine Medaglia, 13028 Tower Road, Thurmont, MD
 - Resident on the road for 18 years..
 - Happy with Frederick County efforts to preserve gravel roads.
 - Rural road program commitment.
 - Paved section at Wigville and MD 77 broke her heart with the clearing of trees. Greenway is now open.
 - Respect of nature. More dead animals.
6. Mary Cannette, 12931 Tower Road, Thurmont, MD
 - Resident for 30 years.
 - Area in front of her house washes out.
 - When she moved she accepted the dirt road.
 - Road is less fun with damage done to her car and the dust situation to car and house.
 - Health conditions.
 - Not fair that people that have a nice improved road can vote for my road.
 - Calls herself a Tower road Survivor.
 - Sees no change in the speed.

7. Robin Slusher, 12941 Tower Road, Thurmont, MD
 - Moved to road with parents 30 years ago. No electricity or plumbing or paved road at that time..
 - Condition of road is dangerous.
 - Wants to see road improved.
8. Cecelia Dillman, 13025 Tower Road, Thurmont, MD
 - Did not speak.
9. Dean Dillman, 13025 Tower Road, Thurmont, MD
 - Dusty road.
 - Pulls you to the ditches.
 - Unsafe road.
 - Maintenance of vehicles.
10. Jerry Cool, 13025 Tower Road, Thurmont, MD
 - Ditto remarks - No further comments.
11. Susan Hanson, 3025 Poffenberger Road, Jefferson, MD
 - Spoke about the Rural Roads program.
 - 60 percent would include the value of the road, and the value of other factors, e.g. for people that use the road for linear parks, nature.
 - Entire road is in the Rural Roads program. People that travel the roads can be affected. A way to be consistent as to who gets a vote.
 - Driving surface aggregate PA visit.
 - To pave without pulling them from the program it is not fair to the residents who petitioned to get their roads paved.
 - Real problem is road width.
 - Rural Roads program is orderly and consistent. Changing the process will bring about much uncertainty and insult those petitioners that followed the rules to have their roads paved.
 - Please do not change the rules.
12. David Hunter, 103 E. 7th Street, Frederick, MD
 - Property manager of the Catoctin Quaker Camp.
 - Thanks to Roads Board and DPW for their work on his road.
 - Grade at the woods has been improved since 2010.
 - Supports the Rural Roads ordinance.
 - Water on the road is the problem.
 - Hope we will honor the ordinance.
13. Paul Allen, 12626 Shoemaker Road Taneytown, MD
 - People will still run into each other.
 - Paving will increase speeds.
 - Find out the problems, e.g. drainage.
 - Rural Roads program was designed to solve problems.

14. Mr. Shen submitted a letter submitted by Nicholas and Kathryn Funkhouser, 5039 Wigville Road, Thurmont, MD -- in favor of the road remaining in the Rural Roads program.
15. Emails were also submitted as follows:
 - a. Ronald Lord, Member of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), 1808 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring, MD – Carefully consider the many benefits of an unpaved Tower Road.
 - b. John Byhouwer, Gaithersburg, MD – preserve Tower Road as a gravel road, in keeping with the rustic setting of this beautiful area in Maryland.
 - c. Ann Hendrix-Jenkins, 816 Colby Avenue, Takoma Park, MD – Please don't pave Tower Road.

Roads Board Discussion:

- Steve Haller:
 - Will abstain from any vote since he lives on Tower Road.
 - Not an ordinance it is a resolution – less formal, statement of opinion.
 - Wendy Kearney, former County Attorney issued an opinion that a road can be improved without removing from the Rural Roads program.
 - No petition has been submitted with the 60 percent threshold.
 - Not opposed to the Rural Roads program.
 - Roads Board to advise Board of County Commissioners and County Engineers.
 - Roads Board or Board of County Commissioners were not consulted on the Fox Tower Road issue. Only County Attorney and the Friends of Rural Roads met. The Friends of Rural Roads told them that it does not meet the spirit of the program. He believes that they do not get to make that decision or that County staff should be guided by them. County staff should seek the wishes and input from the County Commissioners.
 - Four ways for a road to be removed: petition, any County Department, e.g. Fire/Rescue, DPW, Roads Board, and County Commissioners
- Questions:
 - Mr. Routzahn asked if road was tarred and chipped would you keep the existing width or go to 18 feet.
 - Ms. Windsor asked about the cost of maintenance. Mr. Routzahn stated that on 3/14 or 3/15/10 they spend two days on the road with a cost of \$3,800.00, material, manpower, and equipment. Two major times a year for maintenance.
- Recommendations:
 - Robert Shen stated that staff has the capability to make spot improvements. The Department can investigate and give a more detailed recommendation for the June 2012 meeting.
 - Mr. Hansberger asked that we consider the Poffenberger Road stabilization project.
 - Mr. Olney stated that drainage is the major issue.
 - Mr. Shen stated that staff would determine if the road can be stabilized and stay in the program and if there are problems areas that can be addressed with spot improvements.
 - Ms. Windsor made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Hansberger in favor of the recommendation that staff investigate and give more a detailed recommendation for the June 2012 meeting. Board voted in favor.

V. CIP and Other Project Updates:

A. Mr. Shen presented the following information regarding current projects.

1. Ijamsville Road, Phase I
 - a. Phase 1A covers road work from the MD 80 intersection to approximately 1,000 feet north of Ball Road. The construction is about 30 percent complete. Phase 1B will include the road work from 1,000 feet north of Ball Road to the northern limits near the CSX crossing. Staff continues to work on concluding remaining right-of-way negotiations.
2. Ijamsville Road, Phase II
 - a. Design is complete. Staff continues right-of-way negotiation process. Construction funding is programmed for FY13.
3. Boyers Mill Road/Bridge
 - a. Final design for the bridge project is about 90 percent complete. Staff continues to work through r/w negotiations and permit acquisitions. Preliminary design for road project is currently underway.
4. Woodville Road Pipe Culvert
 - a. Staff is in the process of finalizing the bid documents with the anticipation of construction advertisement in April/May 2012.
5. Pavement Management Program
 - a. FY12 Overlay: construction is about 45 percent complete. FY 13 Patching and Overlay contracts to be advertised in March/April 2012.

VI. Highway Operations Updates:

A. Mr. Routzahn presented the following information:

1. Snow Removal Update
 - a. Small amount of snow. Budget of \$954,000, so far this year we spent \$586,407 for labor, material, overtime. Still have \$1 million in snow reserve. It has been a great year for snow removal.

VII. Roads Board Issues:

- A. Requested copies of the handouts (attached).
- B. Adjournment:
 1. There being no further business Ms. Windsor adjourned the meeting, seconded by Mr. Hansberger at 8:16 p.m.
- C. The next meeting will be held Monday, June 4, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Third Floor Hearing Room of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Lee Smith
Administrative Aide

LLS

cc: Attendees via Email, w/attachments

Note: Please use the following to view the meeting, access the agenda and the meeting minutes.

- Roads Board Meetings (actual) <http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/media/>
- Roads Board Agenda <http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/index.aspx?NID=253>
- Roads Board Meeting Minutes <http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/index.aspx?NID=4483>

Unsafe Conditions on Tower Rd

Jeff Slusher





